

Local Teacher Says She's Glad To Be Home After Year Abroad

England was fine, but there's no place like home. That was the observation of Mrs. Helen Wieman, Torrance teacher who returned home last week from Doncaster, England, where she served a year as an exchange teacher at St. James Junior Girls and Infants School.

Under the exchange teacher program, Miss Barbara Breeden came from Doncaster to take Mrs. Wieman's first and second grade class at Arlington Elementary School, Torrance.

"THE CHILDREN are the same anywhere," declared Mrs. Wieman, "but the customs and facilities are quite different." Mrs. Wieman will be glad to return to the two-year-old Arlington School this fall, after serving in a Doncaster school

which was built before 1800. Generally, American schools are much better-equipped than those in England, she said.

In England, all school children take a standard test at age 11 to determine their educational and vocational futures. The top 20 percent of the students taking the test are sent to college preparatory schools for "advanced" training, while the other 80 percent will attend "secondary" modern schools until they are 15 years old. Then they will go to work.

"THE GOVERNMENT of England grants many scholarships to bright students who would not be able to afford higher education," she noted.

"The other 80 per cent, however, must go to work at 15. There is much heartbreak for those who miss the upper 20 per cent."

While in England, Mrs. Wieman was accompanied by her daughter, Kay, who will be a sophomore at Torrance High School this fall. Kay enjoyed her year in England very much, she said.

Mother and daughter toured Europe during the holidays and vacations, visiting France, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Italy, Scotland, and Wales.

Mrs. Wieman and other exchange teachers were honored at teas given by Queen Mother Elizabeth and Lady Astor.

"The queen mother was very gracious," Mrs. Wieman said. "Lady Astor, however, was quite an interesting person. To get our attention when we arrived, she jumped up on a settee, stuck her fingers in her mouth, and gave a loud whistle."

The Torrance teacher was delighted to see the wide variety of goods available in American supermarkets, since grocery shopping in Doncaster had to be done in a series of small specialty markets.

Mrs. Wieman liked Europe and its people, but likes America better.

"I was seasick much of the way home," she said. "When we got to New York, nothing looked better than the Statue of Liberty."

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Dr. Kaplan Assumes New School Post

Dr. Louis Kaplan, 3407 S. Cochran Ave., became assistant superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District of Sept. 1 after seven years as director of the aviation safety division at the University of Southern California.

His new duties will involve responsibility for special services and research in the Torrance public schools.

Dr. Kaplan is a graduate of Wayne State University, Columbia University and SC. He is the author of three books and has written many articles and research reports for education journals. Before coming to SC he was head of the department of education and psychology at the Oregon College of Education, Monmouth, Ore.

Starting with 59 students in 1952, the flight safety program at SC increased its enrollment to 59 students this year under Dr. Kaplan's leadership. More than 2000 pilots of the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Army have been trained in the program with flying officers from foreign countries and civilians. The course won international recognition and a distinguished service award from the Flight Safety Foundation.

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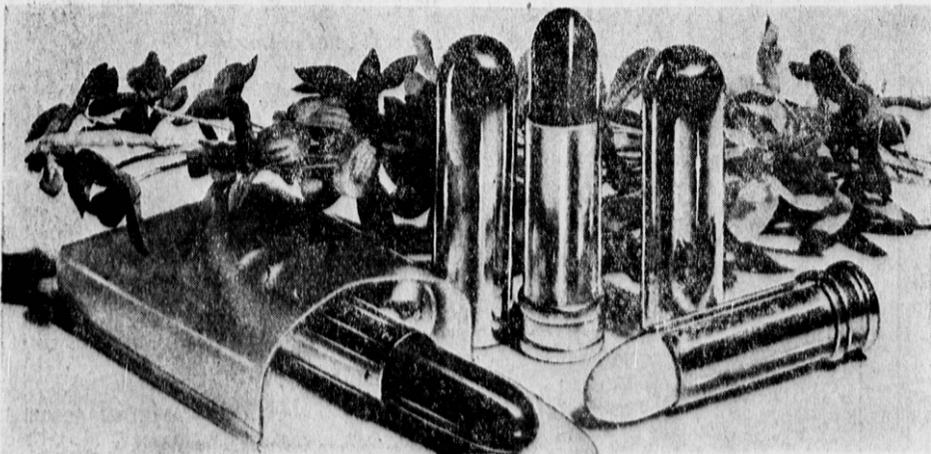
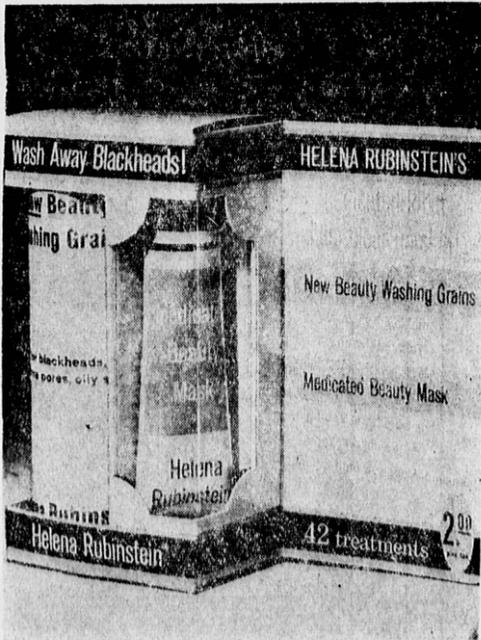


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